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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Comparison of USSR and US Advanced Degrees

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A Soviet "aspirant" is a person who has graduated from a university and who has fulfilled all requirements in order to obtain a university diploma. He is roughly the same as a BA in the US and carries this classification while doing post-graduate work towards the next higher degree "kandidat." The "kandidat" is about the same as an MA in the US.
2. An average "kandidat" in the USSR has training equal to a strong MA in the US. In certain fields the "kandidat" is better trained than his US counterpart. In mathematics the Soviet college student is better qualified. A US college student in his junior year could not handle third-year Soviet mathematics. Soviet chemistry and physics students are much better trained than US students from the third year on. In humanities the US student is better trained throughout his university career.
3. Generally speaking a Soviet PhD is about the same as a PhD in the US. In the sciences the Soviet PhD belongs in the very high brackets -- the average is equal to an outstanding US PhD. The time required to obtain Soviet degrees is the same as in the US -- that is to say the same amount of quantitative material must be covered.

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